

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 of page 20 of the specification to read as follows:

The transfer device has the intermediate transfer belt 31 shown in the figure, transfer roller 32 and plural stretching rollers 33 that stretch the belt 31, and a power supply (not shown) that applies a transfer bias of the opposite polarity to the polarity of charged toner, to the transfer roller 32. The transfer device endlessly moves the intermediate transfer belt 31 in the direction of the arrow in the figure during printing.

This intermediate transfer belt 31 is pressed against the photoreceptor drum 1 by the transfer roller 32 to produce a nip for transfer. The transfer nip has a transfer electric field formed due to a difference in potentials between the transfer roller 32 to which the transfer bias is applied and the surface of the photoreceptor drum 1. The toner image proceeding to the transfer nip with rotation of the photoreceptor drum 1 is primarily transferred to the intermediate transfer belt 31 by the action of the transfer electric field and nip pressure.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 6 of page 26 of the specification as follows:

A developing bias voltage (400 V) lower than a surface potential ((600 V) of the photoreceptor is applied to the developing roller 106, so that a development electric field is produced between the developing roller 106 and the image surface that has been exposed by the exposing device and whose voltage has been lowered to 50 V or below. In the image portion of the photoreceptor drum 1, the toner in the developer migrates to the photoreceptor drum 1 by the electric field to visualize the latent image. On the other hand, in the background portion (non-image portion), the toner is moved to the surface of the developing roller due to the electric field formed by the developing bias potential and the photoreceptor potential so that the toner is prevented from adhering to the background portion.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 42 of the specification as follows:

The developing roller 242, gravure roller 244, doctor blade 249, and the cleaning member 247 are born by a bracket 251, and the bracket 251 is brought upward and downward by a cum mechanism not shown, thereby the developing roller 242 can come into contact with or separate from the photoreceptor drum 201 in the directions of the arrows A'-A'. Fig. 8 shows a state where the developing roller 242 separates from the photoreceptor drum 201. Note that the developer accommodation tank 241 may be so constructed as to go up and down together with the developing roller 242.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 5 of page 51 of the specification as follows:

Thereafter, the electrostatic latent image is developed during passing through the developing device 304. The toner image developed to the electrostatic latent

image is transferred to transfer paper by the transfer device 305. After the transfer paper is separated, residual toner is removed from the photoreceptor drum 301 by the cleaning device 306. Subsequently, residual potential on the surface of the photoreceptor drum 301 is removed by the discharge lamp not shown, and the drum 301 is in a standby state for next copying. The transfer paper to which the toner image is transferred passes through a fixing device not shown to be ejected to the outside of the machine. The transfer device 305 may use any of transfer methods such as a method using an electrostatic roller (which comprises the transfer roller 307 ~~and~~ or a transfer belt ~~308 as that is not shown in the figure~~ figures 12-15), method based on corona discharge, adhesive transfer method, or a thermal transfer method. The fixing device may use any of systems such as a thermal transfer system, solvent fixing system, or a pressuring and fixing system.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 3 on page 69 and ending on line 9 of page 70 of the specification as follows:

The sweep roller unit is provided with a contact/separation mechanism in order to prevent permanent distortion of the sweep roller 343. The contact/separation mechanism brings the sweep roller 343 into contact with and separates it from the photoreceptor drum 301 when a contact/separation cam 350 rotates the sweep roller unit as shown in the figure. At a first position ~~A~~ of the contact/separation cam 350 (the position indicated by the solid line in Fig. 12, the position indicated by the broken line in Fig. 13), the sweep roller 343 and the photoreceptor drum 301 come into contact with each other with a desired nip as explained later. At a second position ~~B~~ of the contact/separation cam 350 (the position indicated by the broken line in Fig. 12, the position indicated by the solid line in Fig. 13), the contact/separation cam 350

pushes a contact/separation cam follower 351 in the direction in which the sweep roller 343 is separated from the photoreceptor drum 301, and thereby the sweep roller 343 and the photoreceptor drum 301 separate each other. The sweep roller unit adds a force to press the sweep roller 343 by a spring 355 in the direction in which the sweep roller 343 comes into contact with the photoreceptor drum 301. The contact/separation cam 350 uses a photosensor ~~as shown in the figure~~, has a filler (not shown) capable of detecting positions corresponding to the first and second positions ~~A and B~~ of the contact/separation cam 350, and operates by a sweep roller contact/separation motor through reception of a signal from a controller according to a print job. ~~Although the diagram viewed from the upper side shows~~ Fig. 12 and Fig. 13 show only one of the end parts, of the contact/separation cam 350 and ~~contact/separation cam follower are disposed on the other end of the rotating shaft 356~~ for the contact/separation cam coupled to the "motor" as shown in Fig. 14 and Fig. 15.